

CHAPTER 3

SECTION 5.4

INTRACORONARY STENTS

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Authority: [32 CFR 199.4\(c\)\(2\)](#) and [\(c\)\(3\)](#)

I. PROCEDURE CODES

92980, 92981

II. DESCRIPTION

Intracoronary stenting consists of coils or tubes that are positioned within the coronary vessel to provide support or “scaffolding” to the internal vessel architecture. Most stents are metallic coils or tubes and balloon expandable or self-expanding.

III. POLICY

A. Coronary artery stenting may be cost-shared for the following indications as an adjunct to percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty:

1. To reduce the incident of restenosis in appropriately sized native vessels (<15 mm length, >3 mm width); and
2. For acute or threatened vessel closure following balloon angioplasty.

B. Coronary artery stents are covered for treatment of saphenous vein narrowing with previous coronary angioplasty bypass grafting.

C. Intracoronary stents must have FDA approval based on its specific intention.

IV. EXCLUSIONS

A. Coronary stent procedures may not be cost-shared to treat the following:

1. Ostial lesions or lesions of the left main coronary artery;
2. Totally occluded lesions;
3. Acute ischemia and acute myocardial infarction;
4. Long and/or diffusely diseased vessels; and

5. Restenotic lesions following stenting.

V. EFFECTIVE DATE **November 1, 1996.**

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